DC #24

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JANUARY

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ADAM STRANGE
three-book mini-series

BATMAN: YEAR TWO
trade paperback

SECRET ORIGINS
trade paperback

PLUS...

An interview with Brian Bolland

Cover Of The Month
DRAGONLANCE™ #17

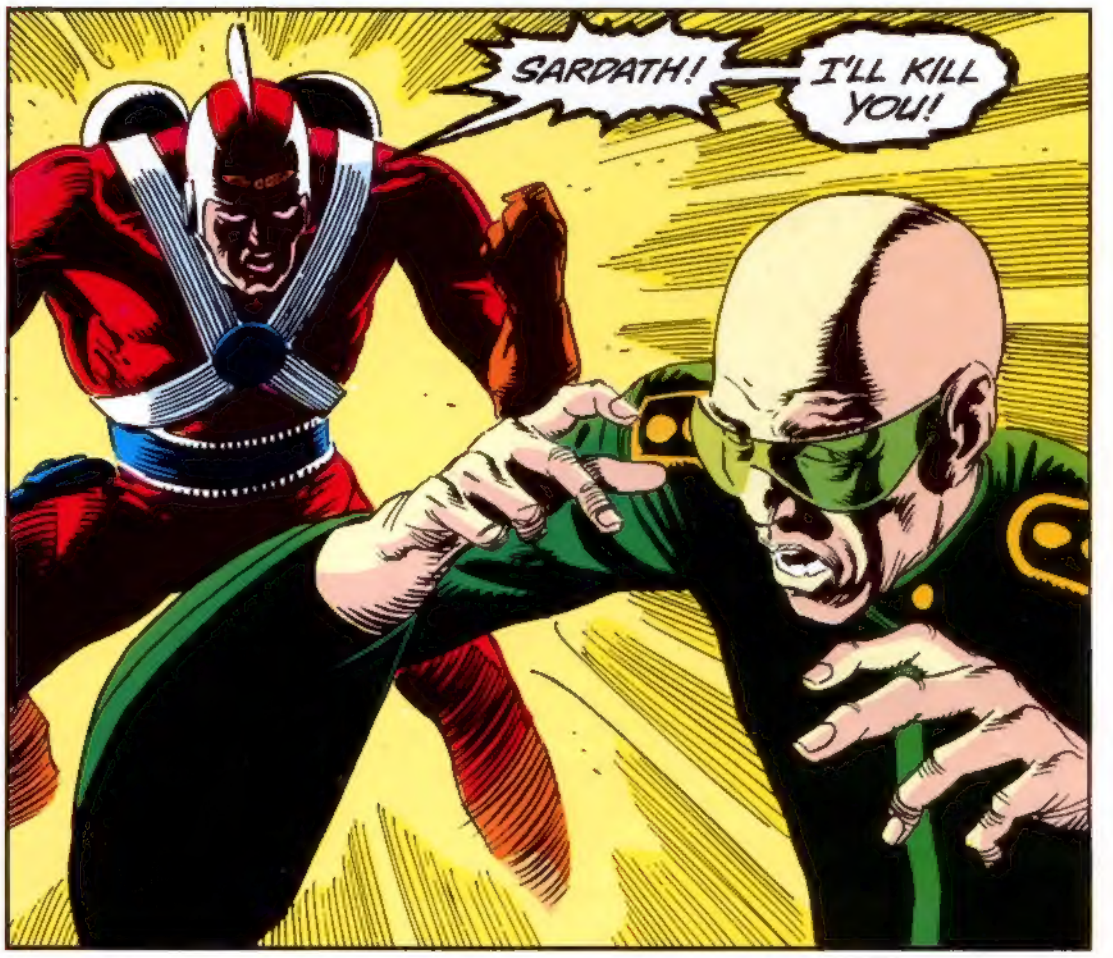
STRANGE ADVENTURES WITH ADAM STRANGE

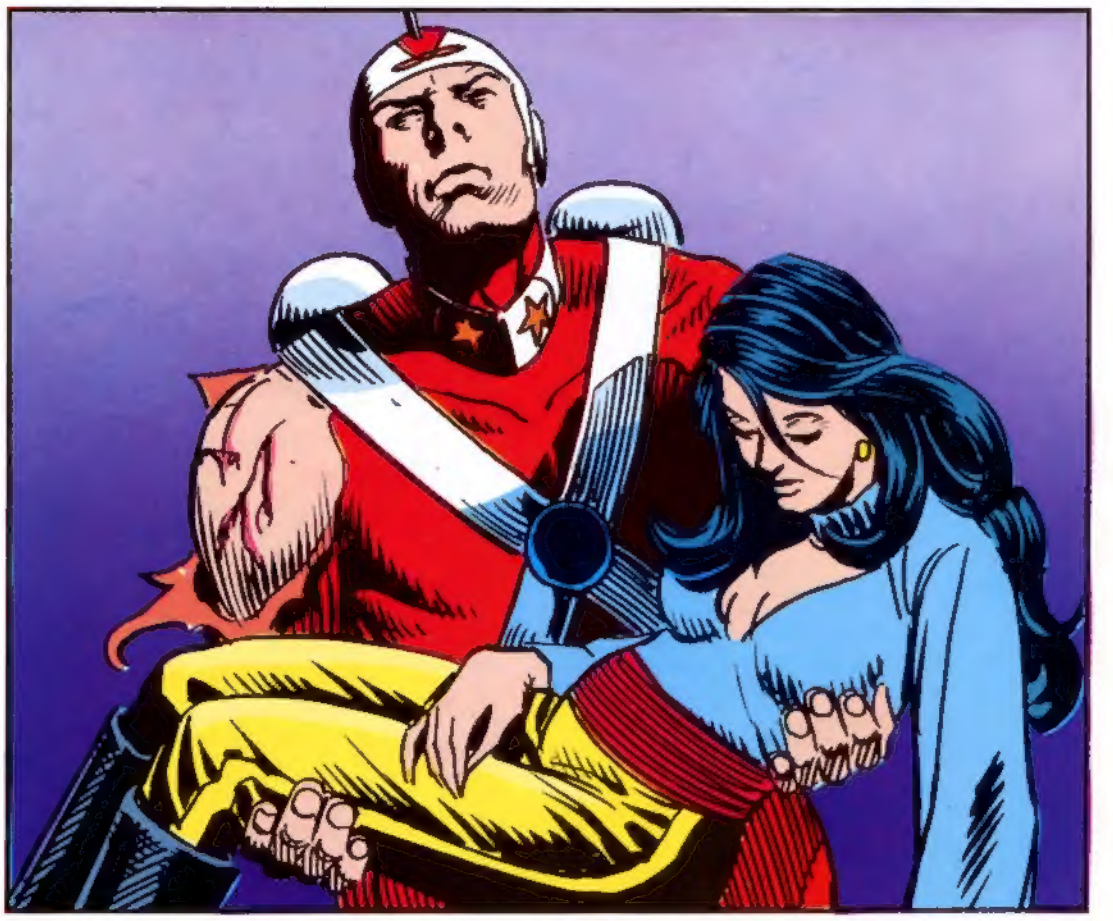
Born on Earth, Adam Strange is the hero of his adopted world of Rann . . . or is he? Rann is a planet facing extinction, a world of increasingly sterile lifeforms . . . and a populace that holds Adam in contempt. But there is one small hope for the dying world: Adam's wife, Alanna, is expecting their child.

Now all Strange needs to do is find a way to control the unpredictable Zeta-Beam he uses for interplanetary travel, so that he can return to Rann once and for all.

ADAM STRANGE is a three-book Prestige Format mini-series, written by Richard Bruning, with art by Andy Kubert and color art by Adam Kubert. The painted cover is by Andy Kubert.

ADAM STRANGE . . . meet the man behind the myth.





FROM • THE EDITOR

Ms. May:

We've had the chance to get the cover to the limited distribution edition of JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #3 in the recent JLI reprint paperback. We can get the cover to the limited-distribution FURY OF FIRESTORM #61 if you would be so kind to print it on the "collector's" page of DIRECT CURRENTS. Please?

P.S. Dealers are asking outrageous prices for these two titles.

Robert N. Cherry Jr.
2208 Encino Cliff
San Antonio, TX 78259

Dear Bob:

First, let me give you a little background on the titles you're referring to. Special covers were produced for JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #3 and FURY OF FIRESTORM #61 to test newsstand purchase preferences. Unfortunately, it's nearly impossible to "test" things in a collector's market, because once word gets out that something unusual or limited is available, those "test" issues are grabbed up—and sometimes completely disappear from the market. It's really frustrating for us, because we *do* know that covers are important in attracting the attention of first-time buyers. What we'd like to be able to test are the elements that are attractive. Alas, we're turning to different methods to try to get new folks to share in this comic book entertainment habit.

But, Bob, to get to your main point: the "Collector's Page" of DIRECT CURRENTS. I could use some feedback on this. What covers would readers like to see? I've tried to show some of DC Comics' really old material, but some of those books aren't in good shape, and I've had complaints when I've cropped out the flaws. Should we try a theme approach, maybe a few months of very rare covers, followed by a few months of very funny covers? Should we try running all first issues? I'd be interested in getting opinions.

As for your particular request, Bob, I'll certainly consider it. There's no reason you should have to pay inflated prices for a cover you would enjoy if we printed it in DIRECT CURRENTS. (For collectors who want the issues for their collector value, well, good luck in finding copies. I don't think I even got to see either book before copies disappeared from our offices.)

In closing, I'd like to suggest that in the early part of 1990 you share one of your favorite pastimes with a friend or acquaintance. In particular, of course, I hope you'll share your enjoyment of comics. Perhaps you have a young friend who would enjoy a copy of KISSYFUR #1 or one of the SUPERMAN titles. How about lending a copy of WATCHMEN to that sophisticated college-age friend or relative? If there is a remedial reading class in your area, perhaps you can suggest some comics that could be used in the classroom. I occasionally hear from college professors who are including graphic novels in their literature classes. I'd like to hear from *you* about ways in which you've shared your comics reading.

As for me, well, I gave away comics—and candy—to trick-or-treaters on Hallowe'en. And I provided comics for my sister-in-law's work with teenagers. I also worked with the Rye Brook, New York-based Museum of Cartoon Art on a special "Batman" retrospective exhibition. (You should try to see the exhibit before it closes on February 25, 1990.) Oh, and I lent a copy of one of my favorite novels to a friend—and she even returned it in good condition!

In 1990, I plan to share even more of my enthusiasm. In most cases, that means sharing of my time more than anything else. I hope to volunteer to support at least one good cause in the coming year.

Whatever you do in 1990, I hope you have fun.

See ya,

Peggy

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

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Printed in Canada

BATMAN LEGEND CONTINUES

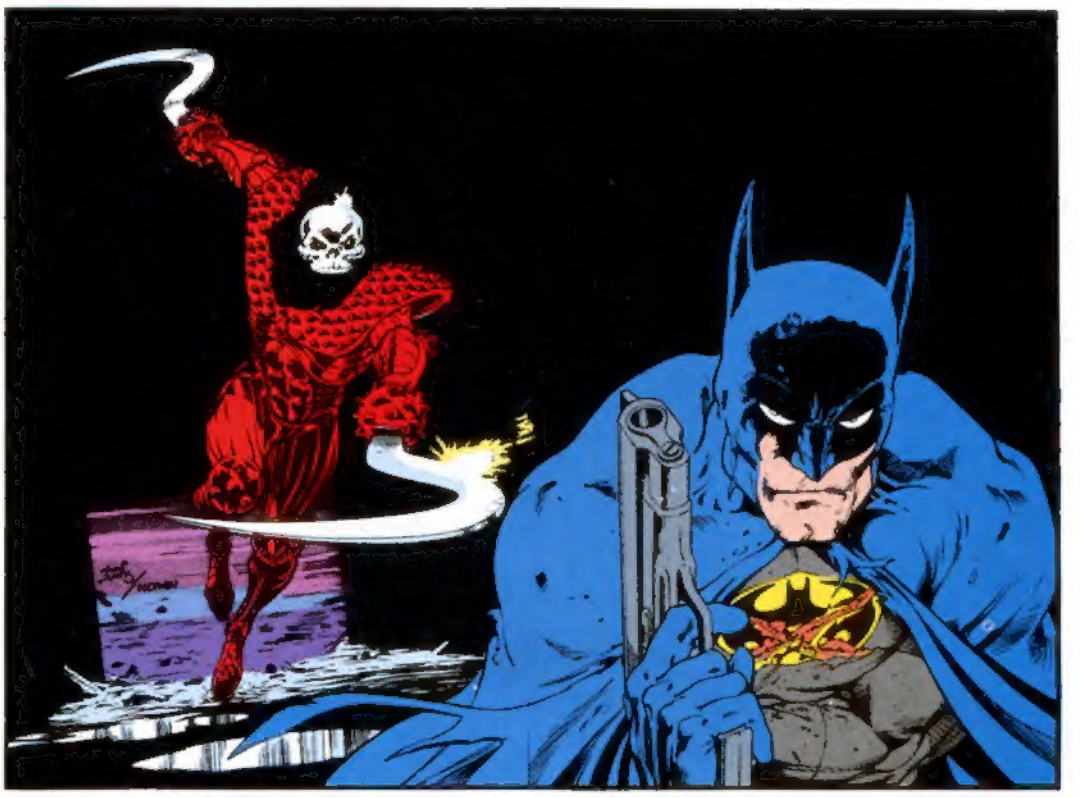
Tragedy transformed his life . . . and now the story of the youth who became the Darknight Detective continues, in the celebrated sequel to *BATMAN: YEAR ONE*, **BATMAN: YEAR TWO** in a trade paperback edition.

The continuing saga of Batman's early years was told in the pages of DETECTIVE COMICS #575–#578 . . . and now they're collected in this trade paperback edition, reprinting the complete four-part tale.

Writer Mike W. Barr is joined by artists Alan Davis and Paul Neary ("Fear The Reaper") and Todd McFarlane and Alfredo Alcala ("Deal With the Devil," "Deadly Allies," and ". . . So Shall Ye Reap . . .") as they retrace the early, faltering steps in the development of the world's greatest detective, the legendary Caped Crusader.

The BATMAN: YEAR TWO trade paperback contains 104 pages and features an all-new cover by Alan Davis and Paul Neary.

The legend of the Dark Knight continues . . .



SECRET ORIGINS REVEALED

We'll tell you some secrets: six secrets, in fact . . . all in the trade paperback edition of **SECRET ORIGINS** featuring DC's greatest heroes. The book includes one all-new origin, created specially for this edition, and five culled from the pages of the ongoing SECRET ORIGINS title.

The new tale is the origin of Batman, retold in a 16-page story, written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Dick Giordano. The additional stories are:

From SECRET ORIGINS ANNUAL #2, the secret origin of The Flash, written by Robert Loren Fleming, with art by Carmine Infantino and Murphy Anderson.

"The Secret Origin of Green Lantern," the story of the Emerald Gladiator, from SECRET ORIGINS #36, by James Owsley, with art by Mark Bright and Jose Marzan Jr.

The Justice League of America in "All Together Now," from SECRET ORIGINS #32, by Keith Giffen, Peter David, and Eric Shanower.

Martian Manhunter's background from SECRET ORIGINS #35, by Mark Verheiden and Ken Steacy.

Plus, Superman's past is told to him by the figure doing "The Haunting," by John Byrne and Dick Giordano, from THE MAN OF STEEL #6.

The SECRET ORIGINS trade paperback edition features 144 pages and a painted cover by Brian Bolland . . . not to mention all the secrets you'll ever need to know about DC's greatest heroes.

JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
ALL RIGHT. YOU SOLD US. NOW THE ONLY THING I'M WONDERING IS...
DO YOU THINK ANYONE ELSE WILL WANT TO JOIN?

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JANUARY

☐ **ACTION COMICS #650**
Celebrating the 650th issue of ACTION COMICS with a special over-sized issue. In an intergalactic bar, Draaga broods over his loss at Superman's hands, leading him to hire a "driver" to take him to Earth for a rematch. Also: The cab drivers of Metropolis tell of their brushes with the Man of Steel. Written by Roger Stern, with art by George Pérez, Kerry Gammill, Dan Jurgens, Curt Swan, Brett Breeding, and Dennis Janke. Cover by Pérez. $1.50

☐ **ADAM STRANGE #1**
(of a 3-book mini-series)
Adam Strange is back on Rann . . . and he wants to stay there. New Zeta-Beam technology just might make that possible, so he can be with his wife and their unborn child . . . and fight the contempt the majority of that planet's population holds for him. Written by Richard Bruning, with art by Andy Kubert, and color by Adam Kubert. Painted cover by Andy Kubert. *(Prestige Format)* $3.95

☐ **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #15**
Who can Vajra trust? The man who once sold her into slavery . . . or her fellow former slave? Her life depends on her choice. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art and cover by Jan Duursema. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #463**
Mr. Mxyzptlk has only one rule, and that's that there are *no* rules—except those that he makes. And Mr. Mxyzptlk has ruled that Superman is to race Flash . . . with the Earth to pay the price if the Man of Steel loses. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Art Thibert. Cover by Jurgens and Brett Breeding. $.75

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #463

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #464**
Continued from SUPERMAN #41: Lobo tangles with Superman on the streets of Metropolis. Lucky for the Man of Steel the alien bounty hunter is drunk or this could be *really* nasty. . . . Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Art Thibert. Cover by Jurgens and Brett Breeding. $.75

☐ **ANIMAL MAN #20**
Animal Man takes on Lennox . . . while the Mirror Master waits on the sidelines to create his own havoc. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **ANIMAL MAN #21**
Animal Man's true powers come to the fore . . . but Buddy may not be ready to handle them. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **BATMAN #444**
A clue leads Batman to the Crimesmith's headquarters where his arrival has been anticipated . . . in a most deadly manner. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Val Semeiks and Michael Bair. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN #445**
A renegade agent, a protégé of the dreaded KGBeast, is murdering the proponents of glasnost . . . and only Batman can combat his secret methods. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Brian Bolland. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN: YEAR TWO Trade Paperback Edition**
Batman meets Gotham's former protector—now gone bad—and confronts his parents' killers in this 104-page trade paperback reprinting of BATMAN: YEAR TWO from DETECTIVE COMICS #575–578. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art by Alan Davis & Paul Neary, and Todd McFarlane & Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Davis and Neary. $9.95

☐ **BLACKHAWK #11**
The Blackhawks discover the man who was responsible for the master plan that led to their "deaths." Written by Martin Pasko, with art and cover by Rick Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **BLACKHAWK #12**
The Blackhawks are back and mounting a raid on the newly dedicated Blackhawk Island . . . home of the impostors and corporate headquarters of Blackhawk Airways. Written by Martin Pasko, with art by Tom Artis and Rick Burchett and cover by Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **CAPTAIN ATOM #38**
Red Tornado comes seeking his lost humanity . . . and to settle a score with Captain Atom. Written by Cary Bates and Greg Weisman, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pat Broderick. $1.00

☐ **CHECKMATE! #25**
Part 5 of the 5-part "Knight Wars": Peacemaker's help is needed as the identity of Bishop is revealed at last . . . and proves to be a traitor within the ranks of Checkmate. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Steve Erwin and Al Vey. Cover by Erwin and Dick Giordano. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **CHECKMATE! #26**
Harry Stein takes matters into his own hands when his children are kidnapped . . . and his actions could doom Checkmate to destruction at the hands of Bishop and his mysterious masters. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Bill Jaaska and Al Vey. Cover by Erwin and Dick Giordano. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DOC SAVAGE #18**
Part 4 of the 4-part crossover starring The Shadow and Doc Savage: the heroes must stop "The Conflagration Man" before he can draw the United States into a war. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art by Rod Whigham and Eduardo Barreto. Cover by Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.00

☐ **DR. FATE #14**
Kent and Petey are left to face the evil might of the sorcerer Wotan when Linda refuses to become Doctor Fate. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE DOOM PATROL #30**
The origin of Crazy Jane is uncovered—but at a terrible cost. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and John Nyberg. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE DOOM PATROL #31**
The Pale Police and the Book of the Fifth Window . . . both will bring mystery and misery to the Doom Patrol. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and John Nyberg. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DRAGONLANCE™ #17**
Part 1 of the 4-part "A Winter's Knight": Riva Silvercrown's dragon dies and Riva is wounded in a battle against draconians and hobgoblins, leading the now 60-year-old dragonrider to recount the days of the second Dragon War. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Ron Randall and Randy Elliott. Cover by Randall. *(New Format)* $1.50

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JANUARY

☐ **EL DIABLO #7**
Part 4 of the 4-part "The Storm": The child-killer is still at large in Dos Rios, and El Diablo must track him down before the conflict between a Hispanic citizens' organization and a white hate group explodes. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **FIRESTORM #95**
Meta-humans have been tearing up Pittsburgh . . . and the populace is up in arms over it. Also, Firestorm returns to Africa—where he encounters an ancient, supernatural presence. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Tom Mandrake. $1.00

☐ **FLASH #36**
Flash is skeptical when introduced to the leader of a channeling cult . . . but when she summons an ancient Atlantean wizard who saves them all from terrorists, he's no longer sure what to believe. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Larry Mahlstedt. $1.00

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ #8**
Part 4 of the 4-part "Dragon Reach": Priam Agrivar takes on the cause of dragons' rights, leaving Omen and Elminster to their battle of wits and wizardries. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by Rags Morales and Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **GREEN ARROW #29**
Oliver Queen travels to Alaska, discovering the ecological disasters perpetrated by man . . . and the greed behind them. Written by Mike Grell, with art and cover by Dan Jurgens and Dick Giordano. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

☐ **GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN #3**
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
Trapped in jail, Hal Jordan finds that a powerful alien is looking for him . . . and as Green Lantern he discovers the secret of the power battery—too late. Written by Keith Giffen and Jim Owsley, with art by Mark Bright and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Bright and Klaus Janson. $1.00

☐ **GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN #4**
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
Hal Jordan, as Green Lantern, travels to the planet Oa and is introduced to his personal trainer, Kilowog. The alien still stalks him. Written by Keith Giffen and Jim Owsley, with art by Mark Bright and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Bright and Klaus Janson. $1.00

☐ **HAWK & DOVE #10**
While Hawk and Dove face the mechanical menace of Andromeda Strange, Hawk's girlfriend Ren succumbs to a bout of "Strange Behavior." Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Paris Cullins and Denis Rodier. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

HAWK & DOVE #10

☐ **HELLBLAZER #27**
A night on the town takes a terrifying turn when Constantine confronts the life of a homeless man. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art and painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE HUNTRESS #12**
Terrorists hold the city hostage with a nuclear bomb . . . only The Huntress's skill and determination stands between salvation and devastation. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bob Smith. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $1.00

☐ **THE JOKER WATCH**
You won't be at a loss for time if you become the proud owner of The Joker Watch, a "Swatch-style" black watch featuring an original full-color painting by Brian Bolland of the Clown Prince of Crime. $29.95

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #36**
G'nort's got an arch-enemy . . . and he's loose. He's the dreaded Scarlet Skier, the ex-herald of Mister Nebula, the Cosmic Designer. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Tom Artis and Art Nichols. Cover by Adam Hughes. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #11**
Metamorpho goes to see his baby. But to see him, he has to go through the baby's "protector" . . . Guy Gardner? Doc Magnus and the Metal Men pop by for a cameo appearance. Written by Keith Giffen and William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Bart Sears. $1.00

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 #12**
The L.E.G.I.O.N. is officially named, and the spotlight is on the "new" Dox as the Emerald Eye takes its toll on Bek. Written by Keith Giffen and Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 #13**
A new member is welcomed into the L.E.G.I.O.N., as Bek and the Eye return home and Lyrissa's child is in danger. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #4**
Part 4 of the 5-part "Shaman": Alfred's life hangs by a thread as the trail of the madman terrorizing Gotham City leads to Wayne Manor. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Ed Hannigan and John Beatty. Cover by George Pratt, from pencils by Hannigan. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.50

☐ **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #5**
The new Legionnaires are finally learning to work together . . . and it hasn't happened a moment too soon as Mordru the Merciless, one of the team's deadliest adversaries, returns. Written by Keith Giffen, Tom Bierbaum, and Mary Bierbaum, with art and cover by Giffen and Al Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **MANHUNTER #23**
Part 6 of the 6-part "Saints and Sinners": Mark Shaw duels Dumas in the ultimate showdown of his career as Manhunter. Written by Kim Yale and John Ostrander, with art by Grant Miehm and John Statema. Cover by Miehm and Dick Giordano. $1.00

☐ **MISTER MIRACLE #13**
Mister Miracle's 1990 Universal Tour is going great . . . until it runs into the prized dolphins of the alien bounty hunter and madman, Lobo. Manga Khan and L-Ron return. Written by Len Wein, with art and cover by Joe Phillips and Bruce Patterson. $1.00

☐ **NEW GODS #13**
Now that Orion has traced his bloodline, he joins Lightray on a quest for humanity—in New York. Written by Mark Evanier, with art by Paris Cullins and Will Blyberg. Cover by Cullins and Blyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE NEW TITANS #64**
Part 3 of the 4-part "Titan Plague": The Titans join forces with the Terminator to end the threat of the were-beasts once and for all . . . or so they think. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art and cover by Tom Grummett and George Pérez. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JANUARY

☐ **THE PHANTOM #12**
As he prepares for his wedding, The Phantom is framed for the murder of Bangalla's president, forcing him to vanish and go undercover in order to clear his name. Written by Mark Verheiden, with art and cover by Luke McDonnell. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE PHANTOM #12

☐ **THE QUESTION #35**
Priorities are decided and Myra, Vic, and Hub City must come to terms with the future . . . while someone is masquerading as The Question. Guest-starring Richard Dragon. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Denys Cowan and Malcolm Jones III. Cover by Cowan. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **THE RING #3**
(of a 4-book mini-series)
Siegfried forges a sword from the shards of his father's weapon and begins the quest to save Brunnhilde. It's a quest that will pit him against dragons . . . and Wotan's fire. Written by Roy Thomas, with art and cover by Gil Kane. Color by Jim Woodring. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.)* $4.95

☐ **SANDMAN #13**
A look at the Sandman's 600-year relationship with a man who refuses to die. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Michael Zulli and Steve Parkhouse. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **SANDMAN #14**
A special double-sized issue as Sandman attends a convention of serial killers to find and confront the Corinthian. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Mike Dringenberg and Malcolm Jones III. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $2.50

☐ **SECRET ORIGINS Trade Paperback**
The secret origins of DC's greatest superstars are collected in this single 144-page trade paperback edition, including an all-new origin of Batman, written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Dick Giordano. Also: The Flash, by Robert Loren Fleming, Carmine Infantino, and Murphy Anderson (from SECRET ORIGINS ANNUAL #2); Green Lantern, by James Owsley, Mark Bright, and Jose Marzan Jr. (from SECRET ORIGINS #36); Justice League of America, by Keith Giffen, Peter David, and Eric Shanower (from SECRET ORIGINS #32); Martian Manhunter, by Mark Verheiden and Ken Steacy (from SECRET ORIGINS #35); and Superman, by John Byrne and Giordano (from THE MAN OF STEEL #6). Painted cover of Batman by Brian Bolland. $4.95

☐ **SHADOW STRIKES #6**
Part 3 of the 4-part "The Shadow and Doc Savage": The Shadow and Doc Savage race to prevent explosive destruction in the heart of Manhattan. Concludes in DOC SAVAGE #18. Written by Gerard Jones with co-plot by Mike W. Barr and art by Rod Whigham and Eduardo Barreto. Cover by Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **STAR TREK® #6**
The conflict between the Klingons and the Nasgul has escalated as Starfleet steps in to resolve matters before they explode. Written by Peter David, with art by James W. Fry and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #5**
A rescue mission that's not what it appears on the surface reunites Geordi with an old lover. Written by Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #6**
Geordi falls prey to the needs of the survivors . . . resulting in a horrible confrontation. Written by Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STARMAN #19**
There's trouble at home that Starman would just as soon not face . . . but running from it sends him into even bigger trouble at the hands of a robotic assassin. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Scott Hanna. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

☐ **STARMAN #20**
Starman's powers have continued to evolve . . . but have they robbed him of his humanity? Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Scott Hanna. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

☐ **SUICIDE SQUAD #38**
Bronze Tiger is interrogated in Washington by Sarge Steel. Written by guest-writer Robert Greenberger with John Ostrander, layouts by Luke McDonnell and finishes by Geof Isherwood. $1.00

☐ **SUPERBOY #2**
Superboy discovers the extent of his invulnerability as he tries to rescue T.J. White from criminals out for revenge against his dad, Perry White. Written by John Moore, with art by Jim Mooney and Ty Templeton. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Templeton. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN #41**
A drunken Lobo accepts a space barroom challenge to take on Superman. Concludes in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #463. Written and pencilled by Jerry Ordway, with inks by Dennis Janke. Cover by Ordway. $.75

☐ **SWAMP THING #92**
The bayou is haunted . . . and these ghosts could have a profound effect on Swamp Thing, Abby, and the baby. Written by Doug Wheeler, with art by Pat Broderick and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **SWAMP THING #93**
Mysteries are revealed, but none more important than the new elemental's display of her first power. Written by Doug Wheeler, with art by Pat Broderick and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **TIME MASTERS #2**
(of an 8-issue maxi-series)
Rip Hunter and his team slowly uncover pieces of the conspiracy that has controlled mankind for centuries as time continues to run out . . . literally as well as figuratively. Written by Bob Wayne and Lewis Shiner, with art by Art Thibert and Jose Marzan Jr. Cover by Thibert. *(New Format)* $1.75

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #40**
Eris, daughter of Ares, strikes at the Amazons . . . with only a handful of ordinary people standing between her and world domination. Written by George Pérez and Mindy Newell, with art by Chris Marrinan and Mike Machlan. Cover by Marrinan and Pérez. $1.00

people at WORK

BRIAN BOLLAND

Every so often an artist appears on the comics scene whose work takes the industry, and fandom, by storm. One such artist is Brian Bolland, who spent several years practicing and perfecting his craft in the British comics industry before hitting the shores of America.

"My birth date is the 26th of March, 1951," Brian told us. "I was born in a little village called Butterwick, and that's very close to a town called Boston in the county of Lincolnshire in England.

"We had our own comics," he recalls, but "Generally the comics were funny comics, except for a magazine called The Eagle, which was the only one that had straight adventure illustration in it."

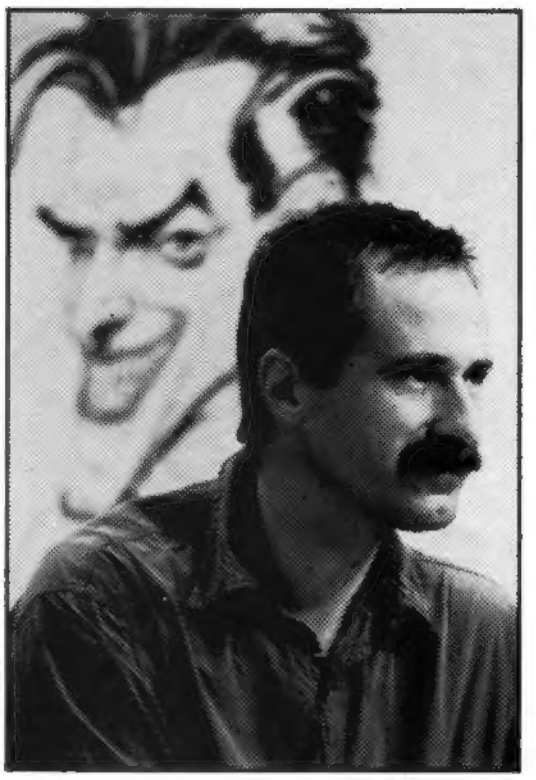
Brian was no stranger to the comics of the United States, however, thanks to a rather unusual practice of the shipping industry. "The story was that American magazines of all kinds came over here as ballast in cargo boats from the States. So whenever they had anything important to ship over from the States to England, they would make up the weight by throwing in bundles of magazines. We would get True Detective stuff and the like. And then they started to distribute DCs on a regular basis in England at the end of '59, so the first comics we ever saw were DCs. Very soon after that I got hooked.

"The first comic I remember buying was a Dell Comic called *Dinosaurus.* It was based on, I believe, a Jim Danforth animation, a dinosaur movie. And then I was really mad keen on dinosaurs and anything that looked like a monster. And, of course, DC always had monsters on their covers in those days, didn't they? I think the first DC I ever bought was a TOMAHAWK that had a kind of sea monster on the front. If it was green and scaly, I liked it. Incidentally, I don't have a copy of that TOMAHAWK and if anybody has one, I'd like it. The story was called "The Secret of the Alien Sorceress."

Brian's taste more or less remained in that vein for several years, until he grew up some and discovered super-hero comics. "The Julie Schwartz titles, your GREEN LANTERN and your FLASH and things . . . they always looked more sophisticated. And between the ages of about 10 and 12, I kind of graduated to a slightly more sophisticated-looking comic, the ones drawn by Carmine Infantino and Gil Kane. I don't necessarily remember the stories. I just remember the pictures and the names of all the artists who drew them.

"I've been drawing since I was about 11, doing my own stuff. I had a set of characters called The Insect League. There were about 12 of them; they all had powers and costumes relating to various kinds of insects. Stupid, isn't it? I think I did stickmen comics before then, but I've lost them. I'm thinking of returning to that technique . . .," he laughs.

"I studied art in school. We have O Levels and A Levels here, and then you go to further education. In my case it was art school. I spent five years in various art schools here doing graphic design. There aren't any courses in comics illustration so I just hung around in college pretending to learn how to be a graphic designer and all the while I was only really interested in drawing comic books,



in that style. Even when I tried to do straight illustration, people would always say it looked like something out of a comic book, so I was always stuck with it."

After completing art school, he moved into the realm of professional illustration, albeit on the fringe of the comics industry. "When I was about 22, there were underground magazines here. There had been a magazine called Oz, which was a kind of late-60s hippie, kind of drugs and sex and rock and roll kind of pamphlet. It was always getting into trouble for pornography and stuff, and I contributed to that occasionally. There was also a magazine called Cosmic Comics, which printed some of my early work. So my early stuff was kind of soft porn, I suppose. It has to be said."

Brian's shift to the world of aboveground comics came several years later in a British published comic produced for an audience in Nigeria. "My first work was on a comic book called *Power Man.* He was a guy with a big P on his chest and kind of leopard skin trunks and a cape. Dave Gibbons and I did alternate issues of *Power Man* for two years or so.

"Following that, in '77, in this country, they were just starting up a weekly magazine called *2000 A.D.,* which broke a 20-year-long belief that science fiction wouldn't sell. It featured a character called Judge Dredd who, over the next couple of years, developed into the most popular adventure character we've had in this country since Dan Dare. I was lucky enough to be one of the early artists on that. People tend to think of my Judge Dredd as the definitive version, in a way because my drawing style is more realistic than the others who worked on the strip, who had more of an impressionistic approach, which often doesn't go down so well with the fans. But I think of the original artist, Mike McMahon, as the major developer of the character. He did most of the illustration when I was doing it. I've always been very slow so I tend to turn out less volume than other artists.

"I worked for two years solidly on *Power Man* and then I worked pretty much exclusively on Judge Dredd . . . there were one or two other little stories that were scattered hither and thither, but that was pretty much the whole of my work apart from the odd advertising job and cover illustration for various things."

Brian's crossing of the Atlantic to American comics came about in 1979 when Joe Staton, then the artist of GREEN LANTERN, visited England and stayed with Brian. "I was always a big Green Lantern fan, so he rang up then-editor Jack Harris and said, 'There's a guy here who'd really like to do a cover.' So they arranged for me to draw a cover for GREEN LANTERN. I mean, I was still just a fan, really, when it came to doing American comic books, and it was very exciting to be doing that. Because I don't think a British resident comics artist had ever drawn for American comic books before. Paul Neary had worked for Warren Publishing through the 70s, but I was the first of this recent kind of plague of lemmings that left these shores in spirit to work for the Yankee dollar.

"I just did a few covers and then, after a visit or two and a few short stories, I was assigned to draw CAMELOT 3000. At that point I had agreed to stop working for *2000 A.D.* and *Judge Dredd* entirely and work exclusively for DC. I would do virtually whatever they wanted me to do. Len Wein said they had this new series that they wanted me to draw, CAMELOT, and while it wasn't a subject I would have chosen to do, I was really prepared to do anything.

"After CAMELOT, I hadn't really drawn anything . . . I mean, I did nine pages in BATMAN #400 but after that I didn't do a full story until THE KILLING JOKE, which took about a year to get organized and then it took me two years to draw the wretched thing. But if anything, that was rather good because it came out closer to the movie, so it's still in the shops when people who have seen the movie want to find something to read with those characters.

"I like doing Batman. I haven't really been keeping up with the stories, but purely in visual terms, he's so rich. I've seen old movies, like 'The Man Who Laughs,' the Conrad Veidt silent film that some say Jerry Robinson got the idea for the Joker from, and if you look at the atmosphere of those old film noir, you find a real feeling there. The Batman has that same feel, one that isn't there in Superman and the others. The swirling cape . . . the dark night atmosphere . . . and I do like the villains who wear suits, the kind of thing people would wear, rather than the ones that wear tights. Comics ought to think more of villains who are in the Dick Tracy mold, people with deformities rather than people with skintight suits.

"I've done lots of covers, about sixty of them. I think it's time I did another full story of some sort, actually. I'm going to discuss that with DC. These days, I'm doing the ANIMAL MAN covers, just so I can be in the one place, so at least there's something, no matter how little, of mine there every month. But I am doing a few BATMAN covers now." And, of course, Brian has most recently contributed the full-color painted illustration that will grace this month's Joker wristwatch.

Brian also keeps busy at home. "I've started a series of single-page strips called 'Mr. Mamoulian.' He's a little man with big round eyes and a moustache and a black coat . . . I do them for my own amusement and a magazine over here called Escape publishes them. I expect when there are enough of them—there are 45 so far—they'll be collected in some form or another, if I can remember to just finish them. It's adult stuff; there are rude words in it and talk about sex.

"I'm also writing and drawing a series of short things called 'The Actress and The Bishop,' a series of three-page short stories in rhyme,and they turn up in a magazine called A-1, which is published over here."

So until the collected 'Mr. Mamoulians' and 'The Actress and The Bishops' are published, we American fans of the work of Brian Bolland will just have to content ourselves with the occasional cover and/or illustration that he produces. Of course, whenever these come along and whatever he decides to do next, we can be assured of one thing: It will be worth the wait.

SUPERMAN'S PAL JIMMY OLSEN

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of SUPERMAN'S PAL JIMMY OLSEN #98 (1966).

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SUPERMAN'S PAL
JIMMY OLSEN
FEATURING... "The BRIDE of JUNGLE JIMMY!"
SUPERMAN... THIS JOKE HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. I DON'T WANT TO MARRY A FEMALE KING KONG!
SORRY, JIMMY, BUT AS LOCAL WITCH DOCTOR, I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!